— Conservation of flora and fauna (including fishery)

— Compensatory afforestation, if forest land is involved.

(ii) Thermal Power Projects

— Installation of equipment to control particulate emissions.

— Measures to control NOx emissions

— Providing of stack of adequate height

— Ambient air quality monitoring

— Raising of green belt around the plant

— Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R and R) of affected persons.

(d) All the above mentioned power projects are under construction except one hydroelectric project (Tipaimukh), which is awaiting forest clearance. No violation of any of the stipulated conditions in respect of the above mentioned projects has been reported to this Ministry by the regulatory authorities.

Emission reduction

*260. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has indicated that it would not make any significant emission reduction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (c) In the international negotiations on climate change taking place under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, discussions on aggregate emission reduction target for Annex I countries including the USA are being held.

Parties are expected to reach an agreed outcome on these negotiations including emission reduction target for the United States at the 15th Conference of Parties in Copenhagen in December, 2009.

———————————

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Increase in prices of coal

†1832. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has recently increased the prices of all its products by 10 to 15 per cent;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices were also increased in December, 2007; and

(d) if so, the percentage of this price rice and increase in production during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and so far in the first half of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Run of Mine (RoM) coal prices in all coal companies of coal India Ltd. (CIL) other than Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) have been increased *w.e.f.* 16th October, 2009 by 10% for all grades of coal over the them existing prices and the increase in respect of coal produced by ECL and BCCL is 15%, except for the portion of Raniganj coal of grades A and B from such mines of ECL which are supplied under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to specific consumers at special prices.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The prices of coal had earlier been revised by CIL in December, 2007 *w.e.f.* 13.12.2007. RoM coal prices for all coal companies of CIL other than North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) were increased by 10% for all grades of coking and non-coking coal over the then existing prices and in case of NEC the increase was 15%.

The rate of increase in production in CIL during 2007-08 and 2008-09 was 6.4% and 8.8% respectively. The rate of increase in production during the period from April 2009 to Oct. 2009 was 8.77%.

Reforms in coal industry

1833. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal industry is moving towards a big reform and is readying to usher-in an open bidding regime;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is likely to bring a legislation for appointment of a Regulator to open up coal mining to private players without restriction of private use; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) With a view to bring greater transparency and objectivity in the process of allocations of coal blocks, the Mines and minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17.10.2008, which seeks to adopt auctioning of coal and lignite blocks for captive use through competitive bidding as the selection process.

(b) and (c) A proposal for setting up of an independent regulatory body for coal sector is